

ITALY – SICILY & THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

8-days / 7-nights guided walking & sightseeing tour in the shadows of Europe's highest volcano



Explore the rolling green countryside of Sicily in the shadows of Europe's highest and most active volcano, Mount Etna, and visit the volcanic archipelago named after Aeolus, ruler of the winds in Greek mythology. On this guided walking and sightseeing tour, new for 2025, we stay a night in the beautiful village of Milazzo, gateway to the Aeolian Islands, and take the hydrofoil to Lipari, the largest island of the archipelago. We watch as Stromboli's summit glows against the night sky, and walk through the ancient lava flows and tunnels from Etna's past eruptions.

Cost from: **\$4155** per person (twin share) Single room supplement from \$635

Departs: 15 May, 2 June, 22 September, 6 October, 2025

Tour includes: 7 nights' accommodation in carefully selected 3- and 4-star hotels; 7 breakfasts, 2 packed lunches, 6 dinners & 1 packed dinner; guided walks with local leader; local transport as per itinerary.

Not Included: Meals and drinks not mentioned, personal expenses, entrance fees, gratuities. Airport transfers from/to Catania at set times can be pre-booked at extra cost and we recommend you take these - please ask for details when booking.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Trip Grading: Moderate. Walks follow good paths, with occasional sections of scree and rougher terrain. Some sustained ascents and descents. Daily walking distances up to 15km with up to 600m of ascent/descent.

Suggested itinerary:

Please note that itinerary is subject to change due to volcanic activity or at the discretion of the walks leader.

Day 1: Arrival day

Plan to arrive at the hotel in Milazzo by mid-afternoon. Transfers at set times from Catania Airport are available at extra cost - ask us for details.

Day 2: Island of Lipari

After breakfast we take the hydrofoil to Lipari, the capital of the Aeolian Islands. The pastel façades of its waterfront buildings contrasts with the black, grey and white of the local landscapes and with the crystal blue sea. There are two possible walks. The shorter route allows for some leisure time in the morning to explore, followed by a beautiful walk to Punta della Crapazza for magnificent views of Vulcano Island, while the longer walk visits the kaolin caves and the thermal baths of San Calogero, a favoured spot of the ancient Romans.

Day 3: Vulcano Island

After crossing to Vulcano by boat, we ascend the Fossa Crater. Our walk begins with easy paths, then we ascend more steeply along twisting paths. Climbing to the crater is an interesting experience because of the continuous smoke and vapour emissions, and the hissing sounds and heat of the volcano itself. At the top we look over the fumarole field and have extensive views over the whole of the Aeolian island chain. After our walk we take the hydrofoil back to Lipari. If there is no access to the crater due to volcanic activity, an alternative route will be offered.

Day 4: Island of Stromboli

Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the island of Stromboli is our most northerly destination in the Aeolian archipelago. We stay here overnight so that we can witness the volcano's lava flows and eruptions in the afternoon and evening. After a morning hydrofoil, we have some free time to explore before our afternoon walk up the volcano. Stromboli always provides a unique experience thanks to its constant eruptions – our viewpoint will be on the border of the Sciara del Fuoco scree field. We climb to the authorised limit of 290m.

Day 5: Etna

We take the hydrofoil to Milazzo, and then transfer to the northern side of Etna, where we stay two nights. The afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy the hotel's amenities or just relax with a drink at the bar.

Day 6: Etna

Both routes explore the northern slopes of Etna. The easier route takes us through pine forest and ferns to observe the lava stream of the last destructive eruption of Etna – the “perfect eruption” of 2002. It is a unique experience to observe and learn about the morphology, geology, and history of volcanoes, and to get to know Etna from within. During our walk we also visit a lava tunnel, a cave created by lava flow. Alternatively the harder walk begins with a transfer to Piano Provenzana to view the lava craters and formations from the 2002 eruption of 2002. We walk to the Grotta dei Lamponi (1700m), a surprisingly deep lava tunnel. After enjoying a packed lunch at the Rifugio Timparossa, we walk past lava rocks and through beech forest before returning to Piano Provenzana. This circular trek is one of the most beautiful on Etna thanks to the variety of its landscapes.

Day 7: Etna & Catania

The easier walk contours the edge of the Monti Sartorius ancient craters – a series of small craters created by the eruption of 1865. The harder walk ascends from Rifugio Citelli to the Cave of Serracozzo, passing through a beautiful forest of white birch, then to Belvedere Serracozzo at the top craters for breathtaking views of the Valle del Bove. There is also an option to trek to the top of the main crater at 3340m accompanied by an authorised vulcanological guide (not included in the cost of the holiday). After our walk, we transfer to Catania for our last evening. After some free time to explore, we have a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast. Ask about departure transfer to Catania Airport, at extra cost.

Outdoor Travel offer guided or self-guided inn-to-inn walking holidays in many areas of Italy including **Cinque Terre, Tuscany, Umbria, or Sicily**, and on pilgrimage routes like the **Camino de Santiago** and **Via Francigena**.

Contact **Outdoor Travel** for more details and reservations:

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